

Translation

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 020195WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See: Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/003510	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 April 2003 (04.04.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 09 April 2002 (09.04.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC B62D 27/02		
Applicant THYSSENKRUPP STAHL AG		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT). These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 18 July 2003 (18.07.2003)	Date of completion of this report 11 December 2003 (11.12.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP Facsimile No.	Authorized officer Telephone No.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
pages _____ 1-9 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages _____ 1-11 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
pages _____ 1/5-5/5 _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/ or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document US,A,2001/0042986, cited in the international search report, is considered the closest prior art.

The above document discloses (see figures 1 and 2) a Y-shaped node structure formed from two hollow profiles for a support frame for vehicles, from which the subject matter of independent claim 1 differs in that the first of the two hollow profiles has at least one flat side and is divided along its periphery apart from a segment in the flat side and is bent about this segment, the end face of the second hollow profile being inserted between the mutually facing ends of the first hollow profile which are formed by the dividing and bending procedures, the edge regions of the first hollow profile being integrally connected to the second hollow profile.

The invention addresses the problem of devising a Y-shaped node structure formed from two hollow profiles for a support frame for vehicles, the node structure having the maximum degree of rigidity and not requiring additional support elements, as well

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as a method for the production thereof.

The aforementioned combination of features in claim 1 is not disclosed by any single document or by the available prior art. Claim 1 thus meets the requirements of PCT Article 33 with respect to novelty and inventive step.

Independent claim 6 describes a method for producing a Y-shaped node structure formed from two hollow profiles, which is directly linked to claim 1. Claim 6 thus also meets the requirements of PCT Article 33.

Claims 2 to 5 and 7 to 11 are dependent claims and therefore also meet the requirements of PCT Article 33.

Industrially applicable in vehicle support structures.

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